NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Office of the State Climatologist

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AUGUST 1995 VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8 John W. James
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SYNOPSIS

STATE PUBLICATIONS

Nevada climate during August was a mixed bag as most of the State had less precipitation than usual, but scattered locations had thunderstorms and spotty heavy rainfall. Temperatures also followed this pattern with many areas having a warmer than normal month, while others were somewhat colder than usual. Flooding caused by brief heavy localized rains was extant in the Vegas Valley and on nearby Mt. Charleston, and in parts of Central and extreme Northeast Nevada. With many areas of frost each month, Summer 1995 will be remembered for its coolness, brevity, and lingering snow banks at higher elevations.

TEMPERATURE

Departure from normal ranged from 1-3 degrees below normal in the North and Northeast to 1-4 degrees above normal in the West, South, East, and Central portions of Nevada. For example, Las Vegas was 4 degrees above, Reno 3 degrees above, and Elko 3 degrees below normal. A rather persistent warm southerly flow dominated the Southern 2/3 of the State.

Extreme readings were not near the August record low of 10 degrees set in 1993 at both Charleston and San Jacinto. Monthly lows dropped into the 20's at several locations, with 21 at Mountain City, 24 at San Jacinto and Wildhorse Reservoir, and 26 at Reese River, with several other locations in the hi 20's.

On the high side, on the 3rd, Laughlin tied the Nevada August record high with 121 degrees. The same temperature was recorded at Cottonwood Cove in August 1992. Other warm temperatures this month were 117 degrees at Callville Bay, Echo Bay, Boulder Beach and Overton Beach.

Honors this month for the "biggest warmup" go to Mountain City where the low on the 21st was 22 degrees, with 90 degrees just 8 hours later!

PRECIPITATION

Except for a few outstandingly wet areas due to thunderstorm activity, precipitation was drier than normal during August. The biggest totals were from Southern Nevada where Kyle Canyon had 4.90" with 1.75" on the 21st and 2.02" on the 22nd. Nearby Lee Canyon had 2.46" for the month. Down in the "flatlands" 3/4 of an inch of rain fell in 15 minutes on the west side of Las Vegas on the 22nd. Other wet spots in Nevada during August were Belmont with 2.07" and Jackpot where 1.99" fell, with 1.65" on the 23rd causing local flooding.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine was above normal this month, with less wind than usual, although peak gusts reached over 50 mph at several locations in Central and Southern Nevada. Evaporation was above normal in all but the Northern 1/4 of the State. Overton had 16.59" of pan evaporation, with 13.71" at Pahrump, 9.95" at Honey Lake Fleming, and 9.84" at Ruby Lake. Fallon had 9.07", Shoshone had 9.01", Reno-UNR 7.32", Orovada 7.35", Gund Ranch 7.02" and Minden 6.89".

NOTE: Over 60 storage precipitation gages are located at higher elevations in the State. These sites are visited once each year in the summer, measured and then charged with oil and anti-freeze to prevent evaporation and to keep the precipitation catch liquid so it will not cap over the gage and be lost. Such gages give valuable information about areas that are not inhabited but are very important in understanding Nevada's climate and water availability.

Statewide, the wettest location in Nevada, other than the east slopes of the Sierra Nevada, was the Angel Lake storage gage at 8000 feet in the East Humboldt Range south of Wells, where 51.45" fell, or about 1 & 1/2 times normal. Second wettest was at 7600 foot Hinkey Summit near Paradise Valley, where 39.58" fell, and at the 10,000 foot level of Great Basin National Park where the 38.52" that was measured is also about 1 & 1/2 times normal. In the South at 8400 feet at Lee Canyon on Mt. Charleston, 36.60" fell with 35.10" at nearby 7500 foot Kyle Canyon. "Normal" is about 20".

With regard to the highest and lowest percent of normal precipitation, Robert's Ranch (27.45") in Clark County and White Horse Pass (16.25") in Elko County enjoyed twice normal rain/snow melt, while Coon Creek Summit (near Jarbidge) had "just a normal" 34.40".

John W. James State CLimatologist

STORAGE GAGE INDEX

*Storage Gage Number	Elevation	Location	1960-91 Averages	1994-95 Precip.
1	8400	Coon Creek Summit	24.22	
2	7400	Pratt Creek	34.32 17.55	34.40
3	6700	Hanks Creek	10.28	18.60
4	6200	West Fork Beaver Creek	13.54	13.30
5	7725	Jacks Creek Pass	32.00	15.90
6	6900	California Creek	12.89	35.65
7	6250	Willow Creek Summit		15.00
8	6545	Adobe Summit	12.88	16.85
9	8000	Angel Lake	14.62	17.05
10	7200	Soldier Creek	35.27	51.45
11	7500	Rattlesnake Creek	17.43	27.85
12	7300	Harrison Pass	22.43	32.15
13	6033	White Horse Pass	16.78	24.15
14	5690	Sadler Ranch	8.43	16.25
15	6200	Limerick Pass	8.90	13.35
16	8150	Shelbourne Pass	12.60	14.70
17	6740	Overland Pass No. 2	13.49	24.80
18	7630	Robinson Summit	12.69	18.00
19	7320	Conners Pass	12.56	22.00
20	9950	+ Wheeler Camp	13.87	22.25
21	7400		26.67	38.52
22	8500	+ Little Antelope Summit Charnac Basin	13.80	17.75
23	6750	Kingston Creek	12.58	18.15
25	6900	+ Pine Nut Creek Summit	15.24	24.00
26	7900	+ I mie Nut Creek Summit		NEW
27	8000	+ Leviathan Aspen Grove, CA + Pine Grove Lobdell	######################################	27.45
28	6985	Ione Crove Lobdell		N/A
29	6820	Currant Creek Summit	10.97	15.30
30	7100	Wilson Creek Pass	12.37	21.70
31	3250	Bunkerville Mountain	16.14	28.15
32	3777	McCullough Pass	6.28	7.50
33	7400	Cold Creek Canyon	6.23	8.70
34	7685	Wheeler Pass	16.27	30.30
35	8400	Lee Canyon	14.45	25.60
36	9050	Adams Ranch	22.35	36.60
37	4000		20.13	30.75
38	7500	Spring Mountain Ranch	10.90	18.90
39	6000	Kyle Canyon Upper Williams Ranch	19.90	35.10
40	6000	Roberts Ranch	14.39	24.75
41	7200	+ Como-Rawe	13.72	27.45
42	7520	+ Carroll Summit	15.44	25.75
43	7350	+ Risue Summit	17.70	24.90
44	8100	+ Lucky Boy Pass	13.50	22.70
46	7000	+ Lebo Spring Summit	13.01	20.90
47	7150	+ Sweetwater Summit	15.72	22.55
48	5950	+ Elbow West		NEW
49	5850	+ Cloverdale Ranch		N/A
51	7150	+ Slater's Mine	**************************************	N/A
52	7600	+ Hinkey Summit	Mr. Commission	23.80
53	7100	+ Tybo		39.58
54	8000	+ Pete's Summit		18.30
55 56	7300	+ Scott's Summit		15.00
56	6500	+ Railroad Pass		20.75
<i>57</i>	6600	+ Hickison Summit	******	N/A
58	7500	+ Anchorite Pass		7.50
59	6200	+ Monte Cristo	*****	NEW
	6875	+ Baxter Spring Summit	******	NEW
	6100	+ Cabin Creek		NEW
	7000	Pequop Summit	emahadaya dang	NEW
	8000	+ Shoshone Canyon	**************************************	35.25
	7150	+ Sweetwater Summit		NEW
	7800	+ Spruce Mountain	ALC: Company	NEW
	3900	+ Spruce Mountain + Sand Pass		NEW
		· SAME I HOU	Salata at Anna	NEW

⁺ State Climatology Office (Others-- State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources- Elko, Carson City, and Las Vegas Offices).

^{*} For locations gage numbers are keyed to the Nevada Climate Map.

NEVADA 120 114 CLIMATE STATIONS 42"-42 Owhyee Rowland Darbidge 4N & Jackpot San Jackpot Contact -O-Denio O Dufurrena Jacinto -C- Kings River Valley o Vya Mountain City RS HUMBOLDT Orovada Charleston Wildhorse Resevoir 2 D-O- Gibbs 3 D Ranch Tailing Pond Paradise Valley lacksquareLeonard Creek Ranch IL Roncho. Desert Valley Sleeper Mine Jarrett 0 6 Canyon Tuscarora Chimney Creek = Santa Fe **ELKO** Bare Ranch Metropolis Oasis NORTHWESTERN Φ7 Golconda -O-Midas Gerlach Hualapai 🕁 Wells 🕳 **⊕**-©-Winnemucca Carlin -01 Newmont Φ9 Vinnemuc-Lone Tree Mine Mark Gerlach -O Elko FAA Clover Valley 1000-Arthur 4 NW Imioy 💠 Fork - Lamoille Yost - Lamoille Yost Ruby Jiggs Zaga Battle Hwy Stn Smoke Creek Espil Rye Patch Dam 🔶 👱 Unionville **(** Beowawe Ø 11 PERSHING WASHOE Copper Canyon & Basin Mines O 12 -O. Paris Ranch Pine Ol Honey Lovelock Currie Hwy Stn Lake Fleming Echo Bay McCay Mine ♦ Ruby Lake Couer Rochester Lovelock FAA AP • 40 $\diamond_{\mathsf{Lages}}$ EUREKA O 17 LANDER Q Bald Mtn. Mine Beowawe U of N Ranch Antelope Valley Farr Red Rock Valley Hay Creek ❖ NORTHEASTERN Reno UNR Diamond Valley USDA -C /Wadsworth 4N CHURCHILL WHITE PINE 6. Fernley Reno WST D 45 I Fallon Exp Stn Alligator Mine Verdi Peak ◆ North Spring Valley 1942 to Fallon NAS
Lahonton Dam Middlegate Lowy 18 ⊕ → McGill 21 🛡 Eureko Virgińia City Φ₂₂ Мар) y 23 Kingston Φ Canyon Φ Ely WSO Ruth LYON Snowball Ranch Reese River O'Toole ₾ 20 **⊕** 50 **0** Carvers Station Rawhide Mine Shoshone 5N - Belmont Blue Eagle Hanks ⊕ ≚ Manhattan Φ 27 Φ 47 Hawthorne Sunnyside SOUTH CENTRAL 0 ake Valley Steward 53 ⊕ Q Tybo Junction Spring Valley St P MINERAL Tonopah Twin Springs Fallini Tonopah AP 38 . Ĉandelaria 38-**ESMERALDA** O Pioche Montgomer Pass Goldfield ♦ © Montezuma O Callente Oyer 4 SE NYE Hiko LINCOLN ₩ Silverpeak Q Lide Elain 3SE STATION LEGEND Beatty BN EXTREME SOUTHERN Amargosa Farms Garey Bunkerville O O Precipitation - non recording Precipitation - recording Overton Lee Canyon -> Precipitation & Temperature Ash Mead Precipitation, Temperature & Evaporation Φ^{26} Storage Gage (see supplemental sheet) N. Las ₼33-40 Callville Bo Red Rock - Las Vegas-Canyon St Pk WSO AP ★ Special Network A Designates Storage Gage Groupings Boulder Beach Spring Valley O James Mountain Q 116 Springs Summit Boulder City O State Climate Office Station (Others - Nat'l Weather Service) 32 Double circle combinations indicate the availability of more detailed meteorlogical data Sandy Searchlight Cattonwood Cove F. DWIGHT BLEVINS STATE CLIMATE OFFICE 3/3/95 REVISED COMPUTER EDITED Laughlin WILES